



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

23 June 2015

Mr S Meiklejohn
Chairman
IFC Forum
44 Esplanade
St Helier
Jersey
JE4 9WG
Channel Islands

Dear Mr Meiklejohn,

Thank you for your letter of 1 June setting out the role of the IFC Forum. I welcome your confirmation that you share the Government's desire to counter tax evasion. We are working closely with the Overseas Territories on this issue. At the Joint Ministerial Council in December last year Territory Leaders agreed to work with us to help raise international standards to tackle money laundering, tax evasion, illicit finance and corruption.

The Overseas Territories have demonstrated their commitment to be at the forefront of international tax transparency. As part of this agenda the Prime Minister has made it clear that he would like a publicly accessible central register of company beneficial ownership to be the new international standard. We want the Overseas Territories to match our policy and implement central registries which are fully resourced and effective. We are working closely with the Overseas Territories and are keeping them informed as UK policy develops.

I regret that diary commitments mean that I am unable to meet you in the near future. I understand however that some of your colleagues have recently met officials from HM Treasury to discuss beneficial ownership and the associated issues for the Overseas Territories. My officials also stand ready to meet with you should you wish. The contact is [redacted] who can be reached by e-mail

[redacted] or telephone [redacted]

JAMES DUDDRIDGE MP

Minister for Africa, the Overseas Territories and the Caribbean